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BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

October 16 to 31, 1910.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

- ASPARAGUS SPP. (Convallariaceae.) 28923-925. Seeds of several forms of asparagus from Tunis, North Africa. Presented by Mr. L. Guillochon, Jardin d'Essais de Tunis. For breeding purposes. For distribution later.
- CICER ARIETINUM. (Fabaceae.) 28935. Chickpea from Aintab, Turkey-in-Asia. Presented by Mr. H. H. Bakkalian, secretary to Mrs. F. A. Shephard. For immediate distribution.
- EHRETIA ACUMINATA. (Borraginaceae.) 28669. Seeds from Mauritius. Presented by Mr. Gabriel Regnard. "Heliotrope tree. This belongs to a different tribe of the same family with the heliotrope, and the white flowers have a honey-like odor. Drupes red, the size of a pea, said to be edible." (Bailey.) "Indian tree of the Borraginaceous family yielding a tough, light and durable wood. Bunches of tiny white flowers. Red seeds size of a small pea. Very showy and ornamental tree." (Regnard.) For immediate distribution.
- GOSSYPIUM SPP. (Malvaceae.) 28798. Wild cotton from Riviere du Rempart, Mauritius. Presented by Mr. Gabriel Regnard. "These cottons (see also Nos. 28879, 28880) grow particularly at the N. N. E. and N. W. of the island, at different altitudes and under different soils and climatic conditions, without varying in growth and shape." (Regnard.) For distribution later.
- IRVINGIA GABONENSIS. (Simaroubaceae.) 28912. Seeds of Oba from Victoria, Kamerun, Africa. Presented by Mr. F. A. Deistel, Director of Experiment Station, at the request of the Imperial Colonial Office at Berlin. "This is a tree 30 to 50 feet high, with shining leaves, which produces edible fruit said to be about 2½ inches in diameter. The seeds are the source of 'dika butter'. This is called 'wild mango' by the English residents of Prince's Island, where it occurs. It is also reported from Rivers Muni and Camaroons in West Africa." (Deistel.) For distribution later.
- LATHYRUS SATIVUS. (Fabaceae.) 28813-814. Two forms from the Gaucin district, Spain. Procured by Mr. R. L. Sprague, American Consul, Gibraltar, Spain. No. 28813, large-seeded; No. 28814, small-seeded. For immediate distribution.

- LATHYRUS SATIVUS.** (Fabaceae.) 28936. Bitter vetch from Aintab, Turkey-in-Asia. Presented by Mr. H. H. Bakkalian, secretary to Mrs. F. A. Shephard. For immediate distribution.
- LENS ESCULENTA.** (Fabaceae.) 28937. Lentils from Aintab, Turkey-in-Asia. Presented by Mr. H. H. Bakkalian, secretary to Mrs. F. A. Shephard. For immediate distribution.
- MEDICAGO FALCATA.** (Fabaceae.) 28938. Alfalfa seed from Aintab, Turkey-in-Asia. Presented by Mr. H. H. Bakkalian, secretary to Mrs. F. A. Shephard. For immediate distribution.
- MEDICAGO FALCATA.** (Fabaceae.) 28918. Alfalfa seed from Christiania, Norway. Presented by Prof. Dr. Wille, Director of the Botanic Garden. For distribution later.
- MEDICAGO SATIVA.** (Fabaceae.) 28919. Alfalfa seed from Christiania, Norway. Presented by Prof. Dr. Wille, Director of the Botanic Garden. "Variety Malthei. This is a new variety which has not yet been described, and which is larger and much harder than the main variety. Medicago sativa is used very little in Norway for its economic importance, as it is not very hardy. A dealer in dyestuffs, O. Malthe, was very much interested in this question, and has experimented and finally succeeded in discovering this variety, and endeavored to disseminate it. The farmers, however, did not want to cultivate lucerne, because they find TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE and PHLEUM PRATENSE more profitable. I wish to call your attention to the fact that the seed of M. sativa, var. Malthei may possibly represent crosses with the closely related main variety, however, only to a limited extent. If you plant all the seeds, you will very likely obtain some plants of the pure variety." (Wille.) For distribution later.
- MEDICAGO SATIVA.** (Fabaceae.) 28908. Alfalfa seed from Ti-tao, Kansu Province, West China. Presented by Mr. Berthold Laufer, Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois, who procured it from Mr. D. P. Ekvall, an American missionary of Ti-tao. For distribution later.
- MEDICAGO SATIVA VARIA.** (Fabaceae.) 28920. Alfalfa seed from Christiania, Norway. Presented by Prof. Dr. Wille, Director of the Botanic Garden. For distribution later.
- MELILOTUS SULCATA.** (Fabaceae.) 28921. Melilot seed from Christiania, Norway. Presented by Prof. Dr. Wille, Director of the Botanic Garden. For distribution later.

MIMOSA RUBICAULIS. (Mimosaceae.) 28726. Seeds from Durban, Natal. Presented by Mr. J. Medley Wood, Director, Botanic Garden. "A hedge-bush, almost inapproachable, growing finally to tree-height. It has proved hardy at Melbourne, enduring some frost." (Mueller, Extra-Tropical Plants.) For distribution later.

MIMUSOPS IMBRICARIA. (Sapotaceae.) 28670. Seeds from Mauritius. Presented by Mr. Gabriel Regnard. "Bois de Natte a grandes feuilles or Nattier or Bardottier. A large tree with gray glabrous branches. Leaves oblong, glabrous, shining, 4 to 6 inches long by half as broad. Pedicels cernuous, petiole 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, brown and silky. Calyx  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch. Petals and stamens as long as calyx. Drupe globose, size of a small apple, 1 to 4 seeded. Found in dense forests of Mauritius." (Regnard.) For distribution later.

MORAEA IRIDIoidES. (Iridaceae.) 28727. Seeds from Durban, Natal. Presented by Mr. J. Medley Wood, Director, Botanic Gardens. "Rootstock a short creeping rhizome, plants 1 to 2 feet high, leaves in fan-shaped basal rosettes, flowers over three inches across, white, marked yellow on claws of outer segments, style crests marked with blue. Less hardy than common irises and flowers last but a day or two." (Bailey.) For breeding purposes. For distribution later.

PECTINEA SP. (Flacourtiaceae.) 28740. Seeds from Mauritius. Presented by Mr. Gabriel Regnard. "Bois Manioc or Bois Cochon. Small tree. Fruit globose, hard,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1 inch thick. Found in mountain woods of Mauritius." (Regnard.) For distribution later.

PITTOSPORUM RALPHII. (Pittosporaceae.) 28901. Seeds from Canterbury, New Zealand. Presented by Mr. T. W. Adams. "A beautiful, somewhat laxly branched shrub 15 to 20 feet high. Its dark crimson fascicles of little flower bells with their slightly emergent yellow anther tips, resting on the downy white young foliage, make it when in bloom, one of the most attractive of our larger shrubs. Probably frequently self-pollinated." (Laing and Blackwell, Plants of New Zealand.) "These are hardy small trees that will bear  $20^{\circ}$  of frost, but I suppose they will not be hardy at Washington, D. C." (Adams.) For distribution later.

PSIDIUM ARACA. (Myrtaceae.) 28911. Guava seed from Theophilo Ottoni, Minas Geraes, Brazil. Presented by Mr. Fred Birch. "The Araca grows to about 15 feet (the size of a hazel) and the very pleasant sweet fruits are about one inch or an inch and a quarter in diameter. With good cultivation I feel sure it could be improved. They are just like small guavas, clear yellow when ripe. They taste sweeter, however, and would make excellent preserves." (Birch.) For distribution later.

PSIDIUM GUAJAVA. (Myrtaceae.) 28910. Guava seed from Theophilo Ottoni, Minas Geraes, Brazil. Presented by Mr. Fred Birch.

"Seeds from the largest and finest tasting guava I have ever seen or tried, it was nearly 3 inches in diameter, and the flesh and jelly were pink-red as in common varieties. The tree grows by a stream near Theophilo Ottoni, Minas Geraes, and most of the fruit have comparatively few seed." (Birch.) For distribution later.

PSIDIUM GUAJAVA. (Myrtaceae.) 28909. Guava seed from Theophilo Ottoni, Minas Geraes, Brazil. Presented by Mr. Fred Birch.

"Seeds from an all white guava. The tree bears only white fruit which are about 2 inches in diameter." (Birch.) For distribution later.

SACCHARUM SPONTANEUM. (Poaceae.) 28907. Grass seed from Sibpur, Calcutta, India. Presented by Major A. T. Gage, Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden. "A coarse, perennial grass, with

long, creeping roots, abundant throughout India and up to 6,000 feet in the Himalaya. This grass is largely used as a thatching material and the leaves are manufactured into ropes, mats, etc. It is a favorite fodder for buffaloes and is also, when young, given to elephants. Native name Kans." (Gage.) For distribution later.

SILENE SP. (Silonaceae.) 26202. Seed of a wild pink from near Hangchow, China. Presented by Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, Shanghai. "A wild pink found on the mountain here." (Farnham.) Probably of interest to plant breeders. For immediate distribution.

SOLANUM SPP. (Solanaceae.) 28915-917. Wild potatoes from Mr. J. C. Blumer, Tucson, Arizona. Nos. 28915-916. "October 5, 1910, Santa Catalina mountains, steep northeast slope at 7,800 feet, under white and Douglas fir, in excellent humous loam. Vines fresh, succulent, and fruiting. Slope burned clean in June. Tubers probably slightly immature." (Blumer.) No. 28917. "October 17, 1910, Rincon mountains, at Spud Ranch, camp site. Since potatoes were once cultivated here, these purplish tubers may be escaped from cultivation." (Blumer.) For distribution later.

SPONDIAS SP. (Anacardiaceae.) 28886. Seeds from Mauritius. Presented by Mr. Gabriel Regnard. "This is much like the species DULCIS as regards the appearance of the tree and fruit, but not the seeds. The only specimen in Mauritius grows at the Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses. It has not been classified, and seems not to have been noticed." (Regnard.) For distribution later.

STIZOLOBIUM ATERRIMUM. (Fabaceae.) 28906. Mauritius or Bengal bean. From Herbert River, Queensland. Presented by Mr. J. H. Maiden, Director, Botanic Gardens, Sydney, New South Wales, who obtained them from the Macknade Mill of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. "This species is considerably cultivated in the Island of Mauritius, Brazil, New Zealand and Australia. It much resembles the Florida Velvet bean, but the vines grow larger and the seeds mature considerably later. This variety is so late, in fact, that it matures in this country only in the southern half of Florida." (C. V. Piper.) For distribution later.

TRIGONELLA CAERULEA. (Fabaceae.) 28922. Seeds from Christiania, Norway. Presented by Prof. Dr. Wille, Director of the Botanic Garden. For distribution later.

VICIA ERVILIA. (Fabaceae.) 28815. Ervil from the Gaucin district, Spain. Procured by Mr. R. L. Sprague, American Consul, Gibraltar, Spain. For immediate distribution.

VICIA ERVILIA. (Fabaceae.) 28939. Ervil from Aintab, Turkey-in-Asia. Presented by Mr. H. H. Bakkalian, secretary to Mrs. F. A. Shephard. For immediate distribution.

#### NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

AFRICA, German East Africa. From the Botanische Zentralstelle, Berlin, Dr. A. Engler writes October 19, that Dolichos pseudopachyrhizus is cultivated in East Africa and will be sent us as soon as available.

ALGERIA, Algiers. In a note from Dr. L. Trabut under date of October 19, he reports that he will send during the winter, scions of Sapindus, Algerian soapberry, cuttings of "Valensi real" grape, and that he will be pleased to be appointed a collaborator of this Department.

ASIA, Turkestan. MR. FRANK N. MEYER, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER, reported from Andishan, under date of October 3, that he was ready on that date to proceed to Kashgar.

CHINA, Kia-ying-chau. Mr. George Campbell writes September 2 that he has sent us a tin of longan seeds (Nephelium longan) but he is not sure they are all right. Has secured native peanuts which he is sending.

CHINA, Kuling. Mrs. John Berkin writes under date of September 29, concerning the Yang Tau vine (Actinidia chinensis), that

"the natives say they think all vines grow fruit but a young vine never bears. They are usually 6 to 8 years old before they bear. So possibly these vines in time may produce fruit." Vines of the Yang Tau have been distributed and one vine at Chico, California, has flowered, but the flowers were evidently all male. Mrs. Berkin's note on the fruiting of the vine in China is, therefore, particularly interesting. (See photographs of the vine in flower at Chico. For photograph of fruit see this Bulletin No. 29.)

INDIA, Simla. Mr. F. Booth Tucker writes us that he has not yet secured for us *Medicago falcata* but hopes to later. He is sending us the ordinary Punjab *M. sativa*, thinking it may be of use. He also sends *M. denticulata*, locally known as Maina, which is reported by the local Department of Agriculture as "an excellent fodder for cattle, and especially for milch cows, but not suitable for horses". The Salvation Army has a farm on the borders of Tibet and from thence Mr. Tucker is making enquiries regarding Tibetan varieties of *Medicago*.

MADEIRA, Funchal. Mr. Alaricus Delmard reports that he has collected seed of *Asparagus scandens*, and will get other varieties as soon as possible. He states he has seen *A. maritimus* along the coast of Madeira.

MAURITIUS, Port Louis. Mr. Gabriel Regnard reports that he has heard of a disease among the perfume geranium at Reunion, but is not certain. Is now sending cuttings of the *Geranium* which is very common there and will send plants next "winter" (May to September).

SARAWAK, Borneo. Mr. J. C. Moulton, Curator of the Sarawak Museum, is sending specimens of a Citrus fruit received from a correspondent in reply to his enquiries in our behalf. Will also try to get seeds of the same fruit for us.

SYRIA, Jerusalem. From the American Colony, Palestine. Mr. E. F. Beaumont reports that *Medicago papillosa* cannot be found within 500 miles of Jerusalem, but he can supply seed of the following species of *Medicago*: *M. sativa* L., *marina* L., *orbicularis* All., *Blancheana* Boiss., *rotata* Boiss., *elegans* Jacq., *littoralis*, *truncatula*, *tuberculata* Willd., *gerardi* Willd., *coronata*, *denticulata* Willd., *minima*. Also mentions a wild plant of the pea family, *Ononis antiquorum*, as follows: "Perennial; grows absolutely everywhere, on poor rocky soil as well as good ground, and is the deepest rooting plant next to alfalfa that grows in the country. It is quite equal to alfalfa in rooting quality. It has a thorn from one to two cm. long. This plant, when young and the thorn is tender, is greedily eaten by all cattle, but when full grown they cannot manage the thorn." Promises to send seed of this plant.



ACTINIDIA CHINENSIS, YANG TAU VINE.

Male flowers from plants which have flowered profusely for the past two seasons at the Plant Introduction Garden, Chico, California. Photographed April 18, 1910. The four vines at the Garden, introduced in 1904, have borne only male flowers. Female plants are being imported.





**ACTINIDIA CHINENSIS, YANG TAU VINE.**

Photograph showing a portion of Yang Tau vine, Plant Introduction No. 11629, at the Plant Introduction Garden, Chico, California. Introduced from Yunnan, China, in 1904, through Consul-General Wilcox, of Hankow, China. So far as known this introduction has produced only male flowers in America and it is reported that female flowers have not yet been seen in Europe. The fruit is said to be about an inch in diameter and to have a delicate gooseberry flavor. One of the finest of jellies is made from this fruit. When plants bearing female flowers are established here and fruit is secured, this may possibly be of economic importance in the warmer parts of the United States. As an ornamental for covering trellises, porches and buildings where a rather coarse, strong growing deciduous vine is required, it will prove of great value. It appears to be half-hardy as far north as Washington, D. C., where plants have made excellent growth for the past 3 years, although the stems were killed back several feet each winter. However, they have not yet flowered in this section. A photograph of this fruit was published in Bulletin No. 29, this series.